

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 117

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 48

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 117—Relative to Hire-A-Veteran Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 13, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 117, Machado. Hire-A-Veteran Week.

This measure would designate the week of May 3, 1998 to May 9, 1998, inclusive, as Hire-A-Veteran Week.

WHEREAS, Although most Americans appreciate the security they have in their lives, this good life is often taken for granted; it is good to remember that throughout history, it has usually been members of the armed forces, serving their country, who make this security possible; and

WHEREAS, Veterans justifiably remember with pride their role in bringing and keeping the peace at home and abroad; the hardships they endured give them a deeper understanding of the privileges all Americans enjoy; and the self-sacrifice, discipline, and experience of military service are positive assets they bring to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, The people of California recognize a special obligation to those who have risked their lives in the defense of this nation's freedom and honor; and

WHEREAS, Californians salute the Persian Gulf veterans, and indeed, all those who have served in our nation's armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Californians also recognize the wealth of knowledge, experience, and training that veterans have to offer as members of the civilian work force; and

WHEREAS, From the beginning of Operation Desert Shield, the American military showed that it is capable of planning and executing tremendously complex and sensitive operations; and the success in the Persian Gulf highlighted not only the superiority of American technology but also the troops' ability to employ these remarkable tools; and

WHEREAS, Through their outstanding achievements in the Persian Gulf region and elsewhere, America's veterans have helped change the world; and

WHEREAS, The nation's armed services veterans can play an important role in achieving continued prosperity and progress here at home; and

WHEREAS, As America restructures its national defense forces in light of new international security requirements, it is important to

ensure that the United States continues to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of its veterans by encouraging their full participation in the civilian work force; and

WHEREAS, Like every nation, the United States is challenged today by a global economic transition; and because Americans who have served in the military have the discipline, motivation, and skills, including the highly technical skills that are essential to keeping American business and industry competitive, it is important to recognize the importance of recruiting and hiring veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American employer is prepared to stand behind the employee who is called to active military service and to safeguard that individual's employment rights while he or she is away; and

WHEREAS, During the week of May 3, 1998, to May 9, 1998, inclusive, the value of recruiting and hiring these Americans in the workplace should be recognized, because veterans have developed special knowledge and skills through their military service, and they clearly possess the drive and the discipline that are needed to help keep American business competitive in the international arena; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that some 60,000 to 80,000 military personnel leave the United States Armed Services and seek employment in California every year; and

WHEREAS, The Governor and California Legislature declared 1995 as the "Year of the Veteran" as one way to let California veterans realize that their contributions are appreciated and also to make them aware of the services that they have earned by their efforts; and

WHEREAS, California has the largest United States veteran population at approximately 3.3 million armed forces personnel, (12.2 percent of the nationwide veteran population of nearly 27 million), and an impressive 10 percent of the Golden State's entire population; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that 20.6 million of the nation's veteran population (76 percent) are actual combat wartime veterans of which 1.2 million (5.8 percent) are women; and

WHEREAS, Despite the capacity of this state's economy, veterans, especially Vietnam veterans, suffer a disproportionate share of unemployment; and

WHEREAS, As of 1991, 79.8 percent of all living veterans (both men and women) were reported in the labor force, while those who were in institutions, schools, or other situations accounted for the remainder. Of the 21.5 million veterans in the labor force, only 4.6 percent were women; and

WHEREAS, Within California, nearly 300,000 veterans are disabled, and approximately eight percent of these veterans have experienced substance abuse or post-traumatic stress disorders; and

WHEREAS, The people of California benefit from a sound and growing economy that is often described as the seventh largest in the world; however, many employer's job openings remain unfilled,



resulting in a loss in production of goods and services, while at the same time, many veteran job seekers are unable to find employment and suffer wage loss and reduced buying power; and

WHEREAS, Current law requires the Director of the Employment Development Department (EDD) to maintain a veterans placement service devoted to securing work for veterans, and to accord veterans priority for services pursuant to federal law; and

WHEREAS, Job training and outreach programs for Vietnam era, disabled, and recently separated veterans need to overcome barriers that impede veterans reentering the civilian work force; and

WHEREAS, Employment Development Department (EDD) compensation to military veterans takes the form of a priority in receiving departmental services, such as job referrals, referrals to training, and the provision of counseling, testing and related services; and

WHEREAS, Increased technical assistance provided by EDD in determining which military occupations have civilian counterpart jobs that require licensure by state or local agencies, can produce greater job placement and help in determining barriers that impede veterans reentering the civilian work force from acquiring these licenses; and

WHEREAS, Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER) assist severely disabled veterans and veterans who have unusual employment problems and promote employer interest in hiring veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is an intensive employment preparation program designed to assist individuals leaving the military to make a smooth transition into a rewarding, successful career in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, From October 1, 1994, to September 30, 1995, there were 632 TAP Classes offered to 27,002 students; and

WHEREAS, Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA) is a new training program designed to assist individuals who are forced or induced to leave military service due to the reductions occurring in the armed forces, and veterans discharged on or after August 2, 1990, are eligible for this program if they meet specified requirements; and

WHEREAS, From August 1, 1993 to December 31, 1994, SMOCTA certified 6,169 veterans, issued 1,386 contracts, hired 951 veteran employees, paid an average of \$9.43 per hour in wages, and allocated \$4.7 million to employers; and

WHEREAS, Veteran statistics reveal that during the period of July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995, EDD registered 138,615 veterans, placed 27,415 veterans, provided 100,346 reportable services, and recorded 18,309 job development contacts; and

WHEREAS, Priority programs like the Employment Training Panel (ETP) result in the growth of the California economy by

stimulating exports from the state, and the production of goods and services that would otherwise be imported from outside the state; and

WHEREAS, The ETP is required to give special consideration for training of veterans, and to give technical assistance to encourage the development of training projects for veterans; and

WHEREAS, The state receives federal training funds pursuant to the federal Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), which funds provide specialized training and re-training programs to prepare for displaced workers, targeted veterans, unskilled adults, and older individuals for entry into the labor force; and

WHEREAS, In addition to local job training funds provided by Title II of the JTPA, Title IV-C authorizes state distribution of designated JTPA funds for job training and outreach programs for Vietnam era, disabled, and recently separated veterans; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California hereby encourages all California employers to do everything possible to hire veterans, especially disabled veterans; and be it further

Resolved, That the week of May 3, 1998, to May 9, 1998, inclusive, is hereby designated and shall be observed as “Hire-A-Veteran Week”; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California encourages all Californians to join in a statewide salute to the combined achievements of veteran employees in the workplace, and encourages all appropriate national, state, and local activity that will broaden the recognition of employing America’s veterans.

